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REMARKS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 16, 2007. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 8-21 are pending and rejected.

In view of the following discussion Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are indefinite or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

It is to be understood that Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant response.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8-21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Day et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,996,015, hereinafter "Day") in view of DeMoney (U.S. Patent 6,065,050, hereinafter "DeMoney") and Katinsky et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,452,609, hereinafter "Katinsky"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Day, DeMoney and Katinsky, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to teach or to suggest the limitations of Applicants independent claims as a whole. Applicants' independent claim 8 positively recites:

8. In an information distribution system including provider equipment and subscriber equipment, said provider equipment communicating to said subscriber equipment information streams including content requested by said subscriber equipment, an apparatus comprising:

a session manager, for interacting with said subscriber equipment and maintaining a plurality of playlists, wherein each playlist is associated with a respective subscriber, said playlist defining a plurality of content streams to be provided to said subscriber equipment, said playlist further identifying reverse and fast-forward streams associated with each one of said plurality of content streams, each content stream comprising a plurality of splicing entry and exit points dispersed therein to enable transitioning between said plurality of content

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streams, wherein said splicing entry and exit points are identified within transport packet headers of each one of said plurality of content streams;

a server, for storing content streams; and

a server controller for retrieving from said server, content streams defined by said playlist, said content streams being sequentially provided to said subscriber equipment; and

said session manager modifying said playlist in response to playlist modification commands received from said subscriber equipment, wherein a next stream in said playlist is spliced at an entry point associated with an exit point of a current stream being sent to said subscriber equipment. (Emphasis added).

Applicants' independent claim 16 recites similar limitations. In an exemplary embodiment, Applicants' invention ensures smooth transitions between content streams, including rewind and fast-forward streams, all content assets, such as video, audio and other information subject to inclusion in the playlist. (See Applicants' specification, p. 10, ll. 16-31). To accomplish this, all content is constructed in a manner facilitating inter-asset transition using, for example, splicing standards adopted by the Society of Moving Pictures Television Engineers (SMPTE). (See Applicants' specification, p. 9, l. 25 – p. 10, l. 5). Notably, the slicing points are identified at the packet level within the transport packet headers of the content stream. (See *Id.*).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Day, DeMoney and Katinsky, alone or in any permissible combination, fails to teach or suggest at least the limitation of a plurality of playlists, wherein each playlist is associated with a respective subscriber, said playlist defining a plurality of content streams to be provided to said subscriber equipment, said playlist further identifying reverse and fast-forward streams associated with each one of said plurality of content streams, each content stream comprising a plurality of splicing entry and exit points dispersed therein to enable transitioning between said plurality of content streams, wherein said splicing entry and exit points are identified within transport packet headers of each one of said plurality of content streams.

Day only teaches concatenating entire video segments one after another to provide seamless video to a viewer. (See Day, col. 6, ll. 26-64). For example, Day teaches a user may search for content, then a list is presented to the user, a user selects content to play and the content is prepared in a "playlist". (See Day, col. 5, l. 7 –

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col. 6, l. 64). Notably, Day does not teach or suggest the play list includes reverse and fast forward streams.

Katinsky teaches a user friendly media player at the user terminal using "pageless" internet site where media streams are delivered to the user without the user having to navigate to different pages. (See Katinsky, Abstract). Notably, Katinsky, similar to Day, teaches the use of a playlist for various content, but is silent as to teaching that the play list may be used for reverse and fast-forward streams.

Moreover, DeMoney fails to bridge the substantial gap left by Day and Katinsky. DeMoney teaches a method of creating an index look up table for the normal play multimedia stream associated with normal play, fast forward and fast reverse streams of the normal play multimedia stream. (See DeMoney, col. 9, ll. 13-29). Notably, DeMoney does not use a playlist for the reverse and fast-forward streams.

The Applicants' note that DeMoney may be a better method to play rewind and fast-forward streams. However, DeMoney is not the same method as the Applicants' invention to play rewind and fast-forward streams. Notably, the Applicants' invention utilizes the multiple splicing entry and exit points within the streams and the playlist to play the rewind and fast-forward streams.

Therefore, even if Day, DeMoney and Katinsky were combined, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest a plurality of playlists, wherein each playlist is associated with a respective subscriber, said playlist defining a plurality of content streams to be provided to said subscriber equipment, said playlist further identifying reverse and fast-forward streams associated with each one of said plurality of content streams, each content stream comprising a plurality of splicing entry and exit points dispersed therein to enable transitioning between said plurality of content streams, wherein said splicing entry and exit points are identified within transport packet headers of each one of said plurality of content streams. Rather, the combination of Day, DeMoney and Katinsky would teach a modifiable playlist of entire content streams, where fast forwarding and rewinding of the content streams would occur via the indexing method taught by DeMoney.

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For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 16 are not obvious and fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder. Furthermore, claims 9-15 and 17-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 8 and 16 and recite additional features thereof. As such, and at least for the same reasons as discussed above, Applicants submit that these dependent claims also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 8-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall or Jimmy Kim at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eamon J. Wall
Registration No. 39,414
Attorney for Applicants

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue, Suite 100
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702
Telephone: 732-530-9404
Facsimile: 732-530-9808